

# Virginia's Approach to Developing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Secretary of Natural Resources  
Commonwealth of Virginia

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# A Challenged Bay

- Loss of shellfish and finfish
- Habitat loss
- Annual dead zones
- Poor water clarity





# Successes to Date

- Much has been done using voluntary, incentive based, and regulatory programs
- 1985 Loads
  - 102 million pounds Nitrogen
  - 12.4 million pounds Phosphorus
- 2008 Estimated Loads
  - 72.8 million pounds Nitrogen
  - 7.2 million pounds Phosphorus



# The Challenge Ahead

- To meet water quality standards in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal rivers, **there is more to do**
- Low hanging fruit – mostly gone
- Future reductions will be harder
- We all have a role



# What We Need to Achieve (and Maintain)

## Virginia Bay Draft Initial Target Loads

- 59.2 million pounds Nitrogen
- 7.05 million pounds Phosphorus
- These targets are very likely to change

# Load Uncertainties

- Initial draft target loads provided by EPA based on dissolved oxygen only
- Impacts on target loads from water quality standards for bay grasses, water clarity and other localized issues not yet determined
- Will be spring 2010 before target loads are adjusted for these factors



# Vision for Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan

- Focuses on “how” as well as the “how much”
- Equity between sectors
- Is relevant locally
- Uses adaptive management

# Actively engage stakeholders and the public

- Virginia Bay TMDL Webinar (October 2009)
- Initial EPA Public Meetings (December 2009)
- Go to Individual stakeholder meetings (2010)
- Stakeholder Advisory Group (early 2010)
- Use Interactive web-based tools (Ongoing)
- EPA Public Comment Period (Aug. – Oct. 2010)
- Additional outreach as necessary



# A Challenging Timeframe

## EPA deadlines:

### Phase I – Draft allocations and state strategies

- June 1, 2010 - Preliminary phase I plan by source sector and impaired segment drainage area
- August 1, 2010 – Draft phase I plan
- November 1, 2010 – Final phase I plan

### Phase II – Local target loads and action plans

- June 1, 2011 – Draft phase II plan
- November 1, 2011 – Final phase II plan submitted to EPA

# Phase I – Draft Allocations by Source Sector and State Strategies

- State staff to consult with sector experts, then staff will develop projected BMP coverage levels
- Draft reviewed and refined following input by Stakeholder Group
- Used to derive potential nutrient and sediment load reductions and develop State strategies





# Phase I – Draft Allocations by Source Sector and State Strategies

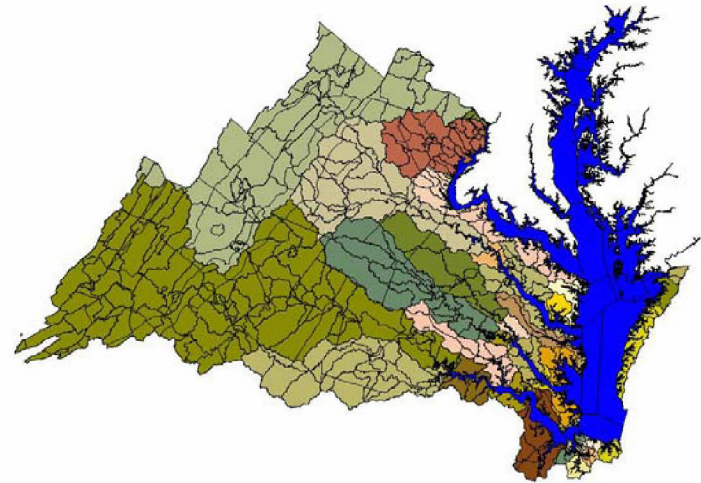
## Source Sectors

- Municipal and Industrial Wastewater
- Non-Significant Wastewater
- Municipal Combined Sewer Overflows [3 systems in VA]
- Industrial Stormwater
- Construction Stormwater
- MS4 Stormwater
- Non-MS4 Stormwater
- Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)
- Agriculture – non CAFO
- Forest
- Atmospheric
- Onsite / septic systems

# Phase I – Draft Allocations Made to Individual Watershed Segments

- State agency staff will distribute the allowable loads into the various impaired segments and among the various sources
- Land use data (cropland, developed land, etc.) along with BMP coverage projections and resulting load reductions will be used
- Draft reviewed and refined following input by Stakeholder Group

Virginia's 35 Bay Watershed Segments

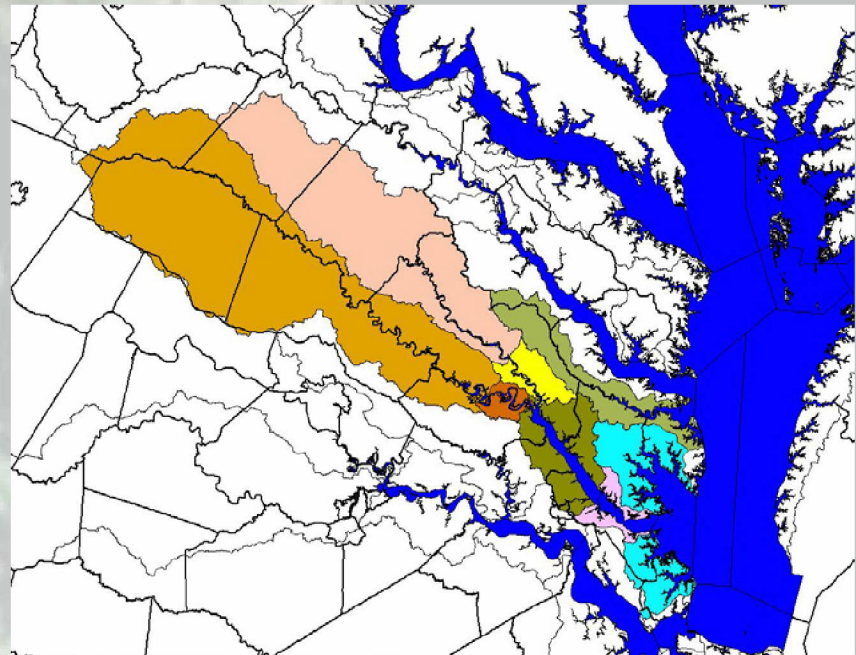




# Phase II - Local Target Loads and Action Plans

- Will work closely with local stakeholders to identify specific controls and practices to be implemented
- Agencies will initiate work later in 2010
- Due by November 2011

York River Segments and Jurisdictions



# 2-Year Milestone Process

- Biennial Milestones –Use adaptive management; identify specific actions needed to maintain schedule
- Continue to engage stakeholders and public
- Monitor and evaluate progress
- Next milestone period – January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013 to be completed with phase II plan

# Want to find out more?

## EPA

<http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/>

## VA-DEQ

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/chesapeakebay.html>

## VA-DCR

[http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil\\_and\\_water/baytmdl.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_and_water/baytmdl.shtml)





# Question & Answer

